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HUGE ROCK RESEMBLES TOAD.
Remarkable Natural Curiosity in Southern New Hampshire.
Toad Rock, so called by the natives of southern New Hampshire because of its remarkable resemblance to a huge field toad, is one of the attractions of this town. Last summer this freak rock first came into prominence, and since its discovery thousands of persons have visited the scene. Viewed from any side, the rock presents the form of a huge toad, crouched and ready for the spring.



The rock, which is a few inches less than fifteen feet in height, is of New Hampshire granite. The stripes which appear on the back of the "toad" are of mica, and add realism to it. All the features to be found on a real, live field toad are reproduced with remarkable accuracy. Unlike many natural freaks, the visitor does not have to be told what it is or look at the rock in a certain way to discern any likeness to a toad. Natives of this town tell funny stories about strangers, who, seeing the rock for the first time, have become really frightened at such a monstrosity out in the field. The rock is on an elevation of nearly two thousand feet above the sea level, and from it one can command an extended view of the surrounding country.

Fought With Bear in Street.
Assistant Postmaster E. R. Dobbins of Hollidaysburg, Pa., tells an almost incredible story of his being attacked on Allegheny street by a ferocious wild bear, but his clothing bears mute evidence to the truthfulness of his tale. Mr. Dobbins was on his way to the office at 5 o'clock to prepare the mails for the early train when the animal suddenly approached him on its hind legs, placing its paws on his breast and pushing him to the ground. He managed by a fierce struggle to free himself from the animal's embrace and regain his feet. He then drew a revolver and fired several shots, the animal retreating. Mr. Dobbins' heavy raincoat and trousers were torn in several places by the paws of the infuriated beast.

Odd Stage Device.
A remarkably clever piece of stage mechanism illusion was practiced in England. It enabled one person to impersonate both Faust and Marguerite at the same time. The sketch reproduced herewith explains the method at a glance. Marguerite, it will be seen, stands before a mirror slightly shaded. The face of Faust is painted on the drapery at the back of her head, while the drapery is so arranged that in the rear it appears to cover the figure of Faust.—New York Herald.



Easy Way of Measuring Heights.
Anybody who knows how to take the altitude of the sun or a star with a sextant, and wishes to take that of any distant hill, steeple, or the like, should put a tea-tray on the ground, fill it with water, and then retire from it until the top of the hill, steeple, or what not is reflected in the liquid. Now take the sextant, and make the image of the summit coincide with its reflection in the liquid. The angle of elevation will thus, obviously, have been measured double. Half of this will give the measurement required.

Siberian Oaks.
On the state college grounds at Ames, Ia., may be seen a dozen or more large and thrifty trees, Siberian oaks, grown from acorns imported twenty-five years ago. In type they resemble the swamp oak of the Southern states and produce an acorn over one inch in length.

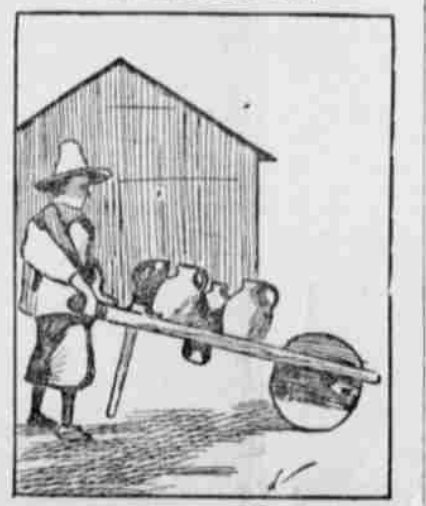
AWFUL DEED OF MANIAC.

Nailed a Man's Head to the Floor to Shave Him.

Ambrosio Samano Campa, a Mexican madman, killed a fellow inmate of the San Hipolito insane asylum, in the City of Mexico, the other day while professing to shave him. Campa induced the other man to remove his straitjacket. When this was accomplished he asked his companion to don the garment, which he did without protest. Then, laying his victim on the floor, Campa proceeded to drive a large spike through his head into the floor. With a shoemaker's knife, which by some means he had contrived to keep, he tried to shave his victim, but finding the latter's position inconvenient, removed the spike and nailed the man's head to the floor in a different manner. This operation he repeated four times.

The dead man was a brother of Manuel Marron, prosecuting attorney in the Belem Criminal court, and a well-known litterateur. When news of the tragedy was conveyed to the lawyer he was summing up the case in the trial of Jorge Loxama, who was finally sentenced to death for murder. As the attorney asked the terrible penalty for Loxama tears were streaming down his cheeks. Samano Campa, who has been in the asylum for nine years, was a powerful man. He believed himself to be God on earth. Once he grasped a man who refused to worship him by the throat and struck his victim's head against the wall, fracturing the skull. Two years ago in a fight with another inmate, who also claimed to be God in heaven, Campa secured a club and killed his opponent.

Mexican Water Cart.



The Mexican "water wagon" is a one-wheeled barrow with but one leg upon which to rest when standing still.

Battles of Alphabets.
Decipherment of the cuneiform syllabary by George Smith of the Cypriote alphabet by the same scholar and of the Hittite alphabet by Prof. Sayce sheds light on a conflict among alphabets. The battlefield was Asia Minor and the competing alphabets were the three named. All three, however, were vanquished by the Phoenician alphabet. The Assyrian syllabary was backed by physical force. The victories of Sargon and Assurbanipal had made the influence of Assyrian civilization felt in the islands and peninsulas washed by the Mediterranean. Yet it seems never to have been in the running at all.

Famous Yacht Now Coal Barge.
The old saw, "How have the mighty fallen," is aptly illustrated by the coal barge Desbrough now discharging a cargo at Providence, R. I. This humble looking craft was once the private yacht of the khedive of Egypt, and she transported the famous obelisk at Central park, New York city, from Egypt to this country.

Parisian Stage Favorite.



The prestige of being one of the most popular favorites on the Parisian stage of to-day Mlle. de Vere has deservedly won not only on account of her exceeding cleverness, undeniable youth and unusual physical attractiveness, but also because of her naive charm, distinguished as it is by the tact and graciousness of the Parisian gentlewoman.

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